
Ornithological notes from a primate survey in Eritrea

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L'article présente des observations ornithologiques, faites en Eritrée centrale entre 1997 et 2000, à l'occasion de dénombrements de primates. Sur les 540 espèces d'oiseaux connues du pays, 267 (49,4%) ont été observées, y compris sept des 13 endémiques régionaux. Deux espèces introduites récemment, le Moineau domestique *Passer domesticus* et le Corbeau familier *Corvus splendens*, ont été notées dans plusieurs localités. Deux espèces observées sont considérées comme globalement 'Vulnérables' d'après la Liste Rouge de BirdLife International¹⁷: l'Aigle criard *Aquila clanga* et le Faucon crécerellette *Falco naumanni*.

Introduction

Recent information concerning the composition and distribution of flora and fauna in Eritrea is remarkably sparse. Long periods of civil war in the last decades have made the region almost inaccessible and biogeographic work very difficult or impossible. Therefore, most information on species status is outdated and incomplete. In 1991, Eritrea became independent and the Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Environment commenced preparation of a national biodiversity assessment³. To overcome the serious data deficiency, a series of wildlife surveys was initiated. I undertook several surveys focusing on primate abundance and distribution, especially of Hamadryas Baboons *Papio hamadryas*, which was also designed to determine ecological and human factors influencing their distribution in central Eritrea²²⁻²⁴. During the survey, I also made notes on birds whenever possible. Here, I present these as one of the first attempts to update Eritrean ornithology.

Eritrea has long been recognised as being on an important migration route and a stopover for many Palearctic migrants⁴⁻⁵. For other species Eritrea is of particular significance, due to its geography and habitat diversity². However, little work has been conducted since Smith¹⁵, which is still the most current detailed compilation of species recorded in the country.

Smith¹⁵ listed 528 species for Eritrea with 24 additional species requiring confirmation. Due to taxonomic revisions, 11 species were omitted from his main list. Based on this, Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire⁴ listed 543 species for Eritrea, of which 306 are resident (50% or 153 with proof of breeding) and 208 regular seasonal migrants (160 from the Palearctic), and including six species that had previously required proof, but rejected another (Northern Masked Weaver *Ploceus taeniopterus*) and questioned a fur-

ther five. Kasperek¹⁰ added three species, Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*, Yellow-legged Gull *Larus argentatus* *cachinnans* and Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*. Urban & Brown¹⁸ and the distribution maps in *The Birds of Africa*^{1,7,8,11,19,20} suggest that up to 30 species, not officially recorded in the country may also occur.

Geography and climate

Eritrea is within the Horn of Africa, bordered by the Red Sea in the east, Sudan in the north and west and Ethiopia and Djibouti to the south. It covers 120,000 km² and has a human population of c3.5 million. Mean altitude is approximately 790 m, with the lowest point in the Dankalia depression (-110 m) and the highest in the south-eastern escarpment, the Amba Soira (3,020 m). Annual precipitation is between 50 mm and 1,000 mm, with a rainy season in June–October in the highlands and western lowlands, and another short wet season on the coast in December–February. Annual rainfall and plant productivity varies in relation to altitude and distance from the coast, thus Eritrea may be divided into five major ecogeographical zones. From east to west, these are the coastal lowlands that reach up to 40 km inland, including the region of Dankalia, an inhospitable volcanic extension of the lowlands that experiences low rainfall and extremely high temperatures. This gives way to the eastern escarpment, and a sudden rise to 3,000 m, which extends north into the arid highlands and south to the moist highlands, including the Hamasien plateau and catchment areas of the Anseba and Mareb rivers. The moist highlands are the main areas of human settlement and agriculture in Eritrea. The western escarpment drops steeply to 1,000 m into the north-west arid lowlands and south-west moist lowlands, decreasing to 200–500 m at the Sudanese border.

Methods

Surveys were conducted in October–November 1997, March–April and September–October 1998. Additionally, I visited some areas in June 1999 and February 2000. Much of Eritrea is very mountainous and rugged, with deep valleys. Some areas are still mined following the war for independence; there are few roads and large areas are accessible only on foot. My surveys concentrated on the centre of the country and I did not visit Dankalia, any offshore islands or most of the western lowlands, particularly the north-west. When possible, I made notes on the avifauna at my study sites. All observations are sight records and were made with binoculars and, occasionally, a telescope. Identifications were based on van Perlo¹².

Ecogeographical zones

Eritrea encompasses several different habitats including semi-desert, dry seasonal grassland, arid and semi-arid bush and woodland, evergreen moist forest, Afromontane forest, inland and coastal wetlands and islands^{6,9,13,14,21}. For the purposes of this study, I

recognised 12 ecogeographical zones based on altitude, annual precipitation and dominant habitat (Fig. 1, Table 1).

Results and discussion

During my surveys, I identified 267 bird species (49.4%) of those listed for Eritrea (Appendix 1). Some identifications were impossible because of sub-optimal observation conditions, eg female harriers, most probably *Circus pygargus* or *C. macrourus*, which I saw several times on the central plateau and in the Mareb River catchment, a nightjar *Caprimulgus* sp., which I saw only briefly from a car, several swifts and swallows and others indicated in Appendix 1.

Of interest are my records of Maccoa Duck and Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*, both of which have not been mentioned in specific lists for Eritrea^{15,15}, but were mapped for the country by Snow¹⁶. Also two 'introduced' species occur very locally in Eritrea, Indian House Crow *Corvus splendens* in Massawa and Hirghigo and House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* in Keren, Akordad and Barentu, but not



Figure 1. Approximate position and extent of ecogeographical zones in Eritrea (1 = coast, islands, sea; 2 = coastal lowland; 3 = central-eastern escarpment; 4 = central plateau; 5 = southern plateau; 6 = Anseba River catchment; 7 = Mareb River catchment; 8 = north-eastern escarpment; 9 = Barka River catchment; 10 = south-eastern escarpment; 11 = south-western escarpment; 12 = south-western lowlands).

Table 1. Ecogeographical zones

code	zone	altitude (m)	precipitation (mm/year)	main habitat types
1	coast, islands, sea	0–50	< 300	coastal waters, beach, dunes, mangroves, tidal flats
2	coastal lowland	-110–400	< 300	semi-desert, barren soil, <i>Acacia</i> shrubland, dry grassland, riverine open woodland (very degraded)
3	central eastern escarpment	400–2,600	400–1,000	closed forest to open woodland, evergreen to deciduous dry, bushland, seasonal grassland
4	central plateau	2,200–2,600	400–700	agriculture, degraded highland forest (<i>Juniperus</i>), seasonal grassland, shrubland, dams, <i>Eucalyptus</i> stands
5	southern plateau	2,000–2,600	400–700	agriculture, seasonal grassland and marshes, shrubland, dams, <i>Eucalyptus</i> stands
6	Anseba River catchment	1,100–2,000	300–700	agriculture, riverine woodland, <i>Euphorbia</i> woodland, shrubland
7	Mareb River catchment	1,400–2,000	500–700	agriculture, <i>Acacia</i> open and closed woodland, riverine woodland, shrubland
8	north-eastern escarpment	400–2,300	200–500	deciduous dry woodland, barren soil, bush and shrubland
9	Barka River catchment	800–1,200	300–700	<i>Euphorbia</i> and <i>Acacia</i> open woodland, riverine woodland, bush and shrubland, agriculture
10	south-eastern escarpment	400–3,020	300–700	closed forest to open woodland, evergreen to deciduous dry highland forest (<i>Juniperus</i>), bushland, seasonal grassland and marshes
11	south-western escarpment	1,200–2,300	500–700	<i>Acacia</i> and <i>Euphorbia</i> open woodland, deciduous dry woodland, bush and shrubland
12	south-western lowland	550–1,000	500–900	<i>Acacia</i> open bush and woodland, deciduous woodland, seasonal grassland, <i>Hyphaene</i> riverine forests, <i>Baobab</i>

in Asmera. Of the 13 regional endemics I found seven: Wattled Ibis *Bostrychia carunculata*, White-collared Pigeon *Columba albitorques*, Black-winged Lovebird *Agapornis taranta*, Abyssinian Woodpecker *Dendropicos abyssinicus*, Rüppell's Black Chat *Myrmecocichla melaena*, White-winged Cliff-Chat *Myrmecocichla semirufa* and White-billed Starling *Onychognathus albirostris*, but failed to record Rouget's Rail *Rougetius rougetii*, Banded Barbet *Lybius undatus*, Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher *Melaenornis chocolatinus*, White-backed Black Tit *Parus leuconotus*, Abyssinian Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus monacha* and Thick-billed Raven *Corvus crassirostris*. According to *Threatened Birds of the World*¹⁷, 15 Eritrean bird species are of special conservation concern, of which I recorded three, Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*, Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (both Vulnerable and Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza cineracea* (Near Threatened).

I almost certainly failed to identify many passerines, while the spatial and temporal pattern of my surveys meant that I did not visit any offshore islands, large parts of Dankalia and the north and west of the country, and thus did not record many localised species. I was unable to gather data on the large concentrations of breeding and wintering seabirds on the Dahlak Archipelago. I did not visit Eritrea during the summer rainy season and most of

the intra-African migrants that occur in Eritrea at this season were therefore missed.

It is possible that some species have become rarer during the last 50 years. Smith¹⁵ for example reported large numbers of vultures in Eritrea, however, I observed very few. Probably the overall decrease in wildlife has led to a decrease in these scavengers.

Eritrea appears to be still an important region for wintering and passing migrants. Though there are few counts for any species, many references refer to the movement of migrants along the eastern escarpment slopes of the central plateau and along the coast, offshore islands and sea channel between the two, eg Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: 'passage in huge numbers', European Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: 'abundant on passage', and Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*: 'very large numbers'¹⁵. I also saw more than 60 Common Buzzards *Buteo buteo* and more than 100 European Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* passing within one hour, and more than 50 Common Redstarts *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* within two hours, hundreds of Yellow Wagtails passing north through the coastal lowlands and White Wagtails *Motacilla alba* on the plateau.

Eritrea, though a relatively small country, has a broad diversity of habitats and extremes of altitude

and climate that combine to produce a correspondingly large species diversity, not only in birds. Currently, the government is developing an entirely new conservation infrastructure and protected areas system. However, ongoing conflicts in the region mean that progress is very slow and other activities take precedence over conservation.

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Appendix 1. List of species recorded in Eritrea during the primate surveys.

Each species is listed together with the following information: scientific name and common name; status according to Smith 1957¹⁵; and Dowssett & Dowssett-Lemaire⁴ (r = resident, rb = with definite breeding record, m = intra-African migrant, mb = with definite breeding record, p = Palearctic migrant, p+ = a substantial proportion of those on passage also winter in Eritrea, v = vagrant (normally with five records or fewer), ib = introduced species now established with definite breeding record, e = endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea). The second paragraph presents the author's data: rec = number of records; sites = number of sites of records; # zones = number of ecogeographical zones; zones = identification code of zones; month = month of record; altitude = given in m, while mm = males, ff = females. An optional third paragraph is devoted to comments.

Struthio camelus Ostrich; status: rare; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 10–400
comments: single individual

Tachybaptus ruficollis Little Grebe; status: locally common; rb
rec: 13; sites: 7; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 4, 5, 6; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 180–2,400
comments: one group of 30 and another of 25 birds at dam

Sula leucogaster Brown Booby; status: common; rb
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 2, 4; altitude: 0

Phalacrocorax africanus Long-tailed Cormorant; status: rare; m
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 6; month: 2, 6; altitude: 2,200–2,300
comments: immatures?

Pelecanus rufescens Pink-backed Pelican; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 13; sites: 8; # zones: 6; zones: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; month: 2, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 0–2,400
comments: 1–12 birds

Ardeola ralloides Squacco Heron; status: rare; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 150

Bubulcus ibis Cattle Egret; status: fairly common; rb/m
rec: 6; sites: 6; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 4, 9; month: 6, 10, 11; altitude: 150–2,400



Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*
by Mark Andrews

Butorides striatus Green-backed Heron; status: common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 1, 7; month: 4, 10; altitude: 5–1,650

Egretta garzetta Little Egret; status: fairly common; p
rec: 8; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 1, 2, 4, 6; month: 2, 3, 4, 10; altitude: 5–2,300

Egretta gularis Western Reef Heron; status: common; rb
rec: 4; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4, 6, 10; altitude: 0
comments: dark morph

Ardea purpurea Purple Heron; status: rare; p
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 6, 9; month: 10; altitude: 180–2,100

Ardea cinerea Grey Heron; status: fairly common; p
rec: 16; sites: 9; # zones: 6; zones: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 5–2,400

Ardea melanocephala Black-headed Heron; status: locally common; r
rec: 5; sites: 5; # zones: 5; zones: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7; month: 2, 4, 6, 10; altitude: 5–2,300
comments: roost tree in Asmera

Scopus umbretta Hamerkop; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 14; sites: 8; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7; month: 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 180–2,400
comments: nests at several sites, mainly in riverine woodland

Mycteria ibis Yellow-billed Stork; status: rare; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 6; altitude: 2400
comments: an immature at dam near Asmera

Ciconia nigra Black Stork; status: rare; p
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 7; month: 10, 11; altitude: 180–1,750
comments: one and 13 individuals

Ciconia abdimii Abdim's Stork; status: common; mb
rec: 18; sites: 9; # zones: 6; zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 50–2,400
comments: br, young in nest in Asmera, March–June

Threskiornis aethiopia Sacred Ibis; status: locally common; r
rec: 7; sites: 5; # zones: 5; zones: 1, 4, 6, 8, 9; month: 4, 6, 10; altitude: 0–2,300
comments: roosting trees in Keren and Asmera, br record by Kasparek¹⁰

Plegadis falcinellus Glossy Ibis; status: rare; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 180
comments: six at dam

Bostrychia carunculata Wattled Ibis; status: locally common; r, e
rec: 4; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 5; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 2,250–2,370
comments: eight and 15 at roost site east of Asmera, six and 12 near Senafe

Platalea leucorodia Eurasian Spoonbill; status: locally common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 1, 7; month: 6; altitude: 0–1,950
comments: one and 10 birds

Phoenicopterus ruber Greater Flamingo; status: locally common; p
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 1, 4; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 0–2,400
comments: three and seven birds at coast, three immatures at dam in highlands

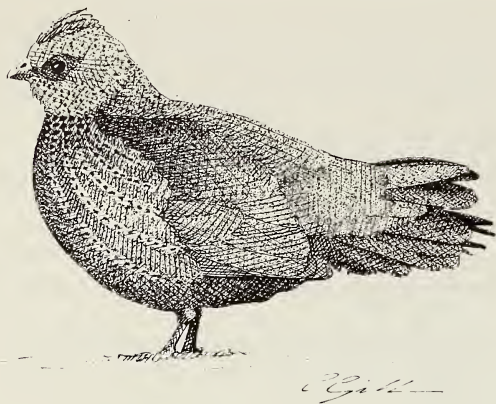
Alopochen aegyptiacus Egyptian Goose; status: common; rb
rec: 18; sites: 9; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 4; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 180–2,400
comments: br, several times with chicks

Anas penelope Eurasian Wigeon; 51; G01-1205; status: rare; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 2; altitude: 2,400

Anas acuta Northern Pintail; status: fairly common; p
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 4; month: 2, 10; altitude: 180–2,400

Anas clypeata Northern Shoveler; status: locally common; p
rec: 8; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 4; month: 2, 3, 10, 11; altitude: 180–2,400

Aythya fuligula Tufted Duck; status: rare; p
rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 2; altitude: 2,200–2,400
comments: more than 20 + ff



Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*
by Chris Gibbins

Oxyura maccoa Maccoa Duck; status: ?

rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 2, 6; altitude: 2,200–2,400
comments: twice a single male; not listed by Smith¹⁵ or Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire⁵, but see Kasparek¹⁰

Elanus caeruleus Black-shouldered Kite; status: rare; r

rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 4, 7; month: 4, 10; altitude: 50–2,300

Milvus migrans Black Kite; status: abundant; mb/p

rec: 28; sites: 13; # zones: 8; zones: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 0–2,400
comments: roosts in Asmera with >150 individuals

Gypaetus barbatus Lammergeier; status: rare; r

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 11; altitude: 1,750
comments: a single

Gyps africanus African White-backed Vulture; status: locally common; r

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 3; month: 10; altitude: 1,900
comments: one bird

Gyps rueppellii Rüppell's Vulture; status: common; r

rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 6, 10, 11; altitude: 1,650–1,950
comments: three individuals

Gyps fulvus European Griffon; status: rare; p

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 10; month: 4; altitude: 2,730
comments: a single

Aegyptius tracheliotos Lappet-faced Vulture; status: rare; r

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3; altitude: 1,650
comments: a single

Circaetus gallicus Short-toed Snake Eagle; status: locally common; p

rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 7; month: 10; altitude: 50–1,650

Circus pygargus Montagu's Harrier; status: common; p

rec: 4; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 3, 4, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,500
comments: only males identified

Circus sp. Pallid or Montagu's Harrier

rec: 7; sites: 5; # zones: 5; zones: 1, 3, 4, 7, 8; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude: 10–2,500
comments: females of probably both *Circus pygargus* and *C. macrourus* (Near-threatened)

Melierax metabates Dark Chanting Goshawk; status: common; rb

rec: 5; sites: 4; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 7; month: 3, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 50–1,950

Micronisus gabar Gabar Goshawk; status: common; rb

rec: 5; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 9; month: 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude: 1,000–1,750
comments: one dark morph

Accipiter badius Shikra; status: common; r

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 11; altitude: 1,600

Buteo buteo Common Buzzard; status: locally common; p

rec: 7; sites: 6; # zones: 5; zones: 3, 4, 5, 7, 11; month: 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude: 50–2,400

comments: >60 soaring in thermal, >50 passing in one hour

Buteo (rufufuscus) augur Augur Buzzard; status: common; r

rec: 13; sites: 7; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 1900–2400

comments: br, adults and immatures

Aquila clanga Greater Spotted Eagle; status: common; p

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 3; month: 2; altitude: 2,300
comments: Vulnerable

Aquila (rapax) rapax Tawny Eagle; status: common; rb

rec: ?; sites: ?; # zones: ?; zones: ?; month: ?; altitude: ?
comments: probably among *A. nipalensis*

Aquila nipalensis Steppe Eagle; status: common; p

rec: 18; sites: 6; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 1,650–2,500

comments: up to 30 at rubbish dump, considered a subspecies of *A. rapax* by Urban & Brown¹⁸

Aquila verreauxii Verreaux's Eagle; status: rare; r

rec: 7; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 3, 4, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,400
comments: br, March nest-defence, April breeding, Oct one chick in nest

Hieraetetus spilogaster African Hawk Eagle; status: rare; r

rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 9, 10; month: 2, 4; altitude: 750–2,000
comments: two (pair?) in flight

Lophaelatus occipitalis Long-crested Eagle; status: common; rb

rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 3, 10, 11; altitude: 1,650–2,250

Polemaetus bellicosus Martial Eagle; status: rare; r

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 100
comments: a single

Pandion haliaetus Osprey; status: locally common; rb/p

rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4, 10; altitude: 0–50
comments: hunting over coastal waters, three roosting on cliff

Falco naumanni Lesser Kestrel; status: abundant; p

rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 4; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 50–2,400
comments: five at coast, 35–40 and >25 on central plateau, Vulnerable

Falco tinnunculus Common Kestrel; status: abundant; r/p

rec: 20; sites: 11; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 4, 7, 10; month: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude: 50–2,730

Falco alopex Fox Kestrel; status: rare; r

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 11; month: 4; altitude: 2,050
comments: a single

Falco subbuteo (Eurasian) Hobby; status: rare; p

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 4; altitude: 2,000
comments: single bird hunting swifts

Falco biarmicus Lanner Falcon; status: common; rb

rec: 8; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 3, 4, 5, 7; month: 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,400
comments: often pairs, one immature

Falco peregrinus Peregrine Falcon; status: fairly common; p

rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 3, 10, 11; altitude: 1,750–2,300
comments: one hunting feral pigeons in Asmera, one in roost tree of Cattle Egrets in Asmera

Francolinus clappertoni Clapperton's Francolin; status: common; rb

rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 11; month: 4; altitude: 2,050

Francolinus erckellii Erckel's Francolin; status: common; rb

rec: 15; sites: 7; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 7, 10; month: 2, 3, 4, 5, 11; altitude: 1,650–2,500

Francolinus leucoscepus Yellow-necked Spurfowl; status: locally common; rb rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4, 10; altitude: 50

Coturnix coturnix Common Quail; status: abundant; p rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 3; month: 10; altitude: 2,200
comments: two (pair ?)

Ptilopachus petrosus Stone Partridge; status: rare; rb rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3, 4; altitude: 1,650

Numida meleagris Helmeted Guineafowl; status: common; rb rec: 11; sites: 7; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 3, 7, 9; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 50–2,000

Gallinula chloropus Common Moorhen; status: rare; r rec: 4; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 2, 3, 10; altitude: 2,200–2,400

Fulica cristata Red-knobbed Coot; status: rare; rb rec: 7; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 5; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 2,200–2,400
comments: br, nest building

Ardeotis arabs Arabian Bustard; status: locally common; rb rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 9; month: 2; altitude: 150–750

Haematopus ostralegus Eurasian Oystercatcher; status: locally common; p+ rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4; altitude: 0

Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt; status: locally common; p rec: 10; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 180–2,400

Recurvirostra avosetta Eurasian Avocet; status: rare; v rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 2; altitude: 2,400
comments: 20 individuals

Dromas ardeola Crab Plover; 179; status: locally common; r rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4; altitude: 0

Burhinus oediconemus Eurasian Thick-knee; status: rare; p rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 6, 10; altitude: 180

Burhinus capensis Spotted Thick-knee; status: rare; r rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 10; altitude: 1,650

Glareola pratincola Common Pratincole; status: fairly common; p rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 180

Charadrius dubius Little Ringed Plover; status: locally common; p rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 10; altitude: 2,400

Charadrius hiaticula Ringed Plover; status: common; p+ rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 4; month: 4, 10; altitude: 50–2,400

Charadrius tricollaris Three-banded Plover; status: rare; r rec: 11; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 1, 2, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 0–2,400

Pluvialis squatarola Grey Plover; status: common; p+ rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4; altitude: 0

Vanellus tectus Black-headed Lapwing; status: locally common; rb rec: 7; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 9; month: 2, 3, 10; altitude: 750–1,650

Vanellus spinosus Spur-winged Lapwing; status: locally common; r rec: 6; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 6, 7; month: 2, 6, 10; altitude: 150–1,950

Vanellus melanopterus Black-winged Lapwing; status: rare; rb rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 6; altitude: 2,500
comments: three birds

Numenius phaeopus Whimbrel; status: common; p+ rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4; altitude: 0

Numenius arquata Eurasian Curlew; status: common; p+ rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4; altitude: 0

Tringa erythropus Spotted Redshank; status: rare; p rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 11; altitude: 2,400

Tringa totanus Redshank; status: common; p+ rec: 4; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 1, 4; month: 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude: 0–2,400

Tringa stagnatilis Marsh Sandpiper; status: fairly common; p rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 10; altitude: 2,400

Tringa nebularia Greenshank; status: fairly common; p rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 2, 3; altitude: 2,200

Tringa ochropus Green Sandpiper; status: locally common; p rec: 4; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 3, 11; altitude: 1,650–2,200

Tringa glareola Wood Sandpiper; status: fairly common; p rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 6; month: 10; altitude: 2,100

Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper; status: locally common; p rec: 7; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 10, 11; altitude: 180–2,400

Calidris minuta Little Stint; status: common; p rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 3, 10; altitude: 2200–2400

Philomachus pugnax Ruff; status: common; p rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 1, 4; month: 6, 10, 11; altitude: 0–2400

Larus hemprichii Sooty Gull; status: fairly common; rb rec: 4; sites: 3; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4, 6, 10; altitude: 0

Larus fuscus Lesser Black-backed Gull; status: abundant; p+ rec: 4; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4, 6, 10; altitude: 0

Larus ridibundus Black-headed Gull; status: abundant; p+ rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 2, 10; altitude: 2,400

Gelochelidon nilotica Gull-billed Tern; status: fairly common; p+ rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 6; altitude: 2,400

Sterna caspia Caspian Tern; status: fairly common; p rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 6, 10; altitude: 0

Sterna bengalensis Lesser Crested Tern; status: abundant; rb rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4, 6; altitude: 0

Sterna repressa White-cheeked Tern; status: abundant; rb rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 6; altitude: 0

Chlidonias leucopterus White-winged Black Tern; status: common; p rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 180

Pterocles exustus Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse; status: common; rb rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 9; month: 4, 6, 10; altitude: 50–1,000

Pterocles lichtensteinii Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse; status: rare; r rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Columba guinea Speckled Pigeon; status: abundant; rb rec: 30; sites: 11; # zones: 7; zones: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 0–2,500

Columba alibitorques White-collared Pigeon; status: locally common; r, e rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 5; month: 4; altitude: 2,370

Streptopelia lugens Dusky Turtle Dove; status: abundant; r rec: 9; sites: 6; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 1,650–2,400

Streptopelia senegalensis Laughing Dove; status: common; rb rec: 17; sites: 11; # zones: 6; zones: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 50–2,370

Streptopelia vinacea Vinaceous Dove; status: locally common; r rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 3, 4, 10; altitude: 950–2,200

Streptopelia capicola Ring-necked Dove; status: ? rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 7; month: 3, 4; altitude: 50–1,650
comments: not listed in Smith¹⁶ or by Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire³

Streptopelia semitorquata Red-eyed Dove; status: common; rb rec: 14; sites: 8; # zones: 5; zones: 3, 4, 7, 8, 10; month: 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude: 1,600–2,300

Turtur abyssinicus Black-billed Wood Dove; status: locally common; r rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 6, 7; month: 2, 4, 11; altitude: 180–1,750
comments: *T. afer* may have been overlooked



White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*
by Mark Andrews

Oena capensis Namaqua Dove; status: locally common; rb
rec: 13; sites: 10; # zones: 6; zones: 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 50–2,200

Treron waalia Bruce's Green Pigeon; status: locally common; rb
rec: 8; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 3, 7, 8, 11; month: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
1,600–2,050

Poicephalus meyeri Meyer's (Brown) Parrot; status: locally common; r
rec: 8; sites: 5; # zones: 3; zones: 7, 8, 10; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
1,200–2,000

Agapornis taranta Black-winged Lovebird; status: rare; r, e
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 11; month: 4; altitude: .050
comments: ten feeding on *Euphorbia*

Psittacula krameri Rose-ringed Parakeet; status: locally common; r
rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 6, 7, 9; month: 2, 4, 6, 11; altitude: 750–1,750

Tauraco leucotis White-cheeked Turaco; status: common; rb
rec: 8; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 5, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
1,650–2,370

Criniifer zonurus Eastern Grey Plantain Eater; status: locally common; r
rec: 6; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 8; month: 2, 3, 4, 10; altitude: 1,650–1,950

Oxylophus levillantii Levillant's Cuckoo; status: rare; mb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 3; month: 11; altitude: 1,920

Tyto alba Barn Owl; status: rare; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: ; month: 4; altitude: 2,200

Bubo africanus Spotted Eagle Owl; status: fairly common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 5; month: 4; altitude: 2,370

Glaucidium perlatum Pearl-spotted Owlet; status: fairly common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3; altitude: 1,650

Athene noctua Little Owl; status: rare; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Caprimulgus sp. nightjar
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 10; altitude: 1,650
comments: unidentified to species

Cypsiurus parvus African Palm Swift; status: locally common; rb
rec: 6; sites: 5; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 6, 9; month: 2, 4, 6, 10; altitude: 50–1400

Tachymarptis melba Alpine Swift; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 5, 7; month: 3, 4; altitude: 1,650–2,370

Tachymarptis aequatorialis Mottled Swift; status: abundant; m
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 5, 6; month: 4; altitude: 1,400–2,370

Apus niansae Nyanza Swift; status: abundant; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 5; month: 4; altitude: 2,370
comments: probably included some *A. apus*

Apus apus Common Swift; status: common; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 6; month: 4; altitude: 1,400
comments: probably included some *A. niansae*

Apus affinis Little Swift; status: abundant; rb
rec: 13; sites: 6; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 3, 4, 6; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
180–2,500
comments: br, several colonies in Asmera

Apus caffer White-rumped Swift; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 6; month: 4; altitude: 1,400

Colius striatus Speckled Mousebird; status: common; rb
rec: 13; sites: 8; # zones: 4; zones: 3, 4, 6, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
950–2,400

Urocolius macrourus Blue-naped Mousebird; status: locally common; rb
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 2, 3, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,000

Halcyon chloris White-collared Kingfisher; status: locally common; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 1; month: 4; altitude: 0

Ceryle rudis Pied Kingfisher; status: locally common; r
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 6, 7; month: 2, 11; altitude: 1,550–1,750

Merops pusillus Little Bee-eater; status: rare; rb
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 7, 11; month: 4, 6, 11; altitude: 180–2,050

Merops variegatus Blue-breasted Bee-eater; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 5; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 3, 7, 8; month: 4, 6, 10; altitude: 50–2,000

Merops albicollis White-throated Bee-eater; status: fairly common; mb
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 6; month: 4, 6; altitude: 50–1,200

Merops orientalis Little Green Bee-eater; status: rare; rb
rec: 6; sites: 6; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 9; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 50–750

Merops apiaster Eurasian Bee-eater; status: locally common; p
rec: 9; sites: 6; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 8, 10, 11; month: 4, 10; altitude: 50–2400
comments: >100 individuals passing in one hour

Merops nubicus (Northern) Carmine Bee-eater; status: locally common; mb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 50
comments: ten individuals

Coracias garrulus European Roller; status: fairly common; p
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 10; altitude: 2,200

Coracias abyssinica Abyssinian Roller; status: common; rb
rec: 8; sites: 7; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 6, 7, 8, 9; month: 2, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
180–1,950

Coracias naevia Rufous-crowned Roller; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3; altitude: 1,650

Phoeniculus somaliensis Black-billed Wood-Hoopoe; status: common; rb
rec: 7; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 7, 8; month: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
1,650–2,000

Phoeniculus aterrimus Black (Wood-Hoopoe) Scimitarbill; status: fairly
common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 10, 11; altitude: 1,650–1,750

Upupa epops Hoopoe; status: common; rb/p
rec: 18; sites: 11; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 50–2,370
comments: probably refer to *africana*

Tockus hemprichii Hemprich's Hornbill; status: locally common; r
rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 3, 11; altitude: 1,650–2,150

Tockus erythrorhynchus Red-billed Hornbill; status: common; r
rec: 15; sites: 9; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 7, 8, 9; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 50–2,000

Tockus nasutus African Grey Hornbill; status: common; rb
rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 6, 8; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 950–1,950

Ceratogymna brevis Silvery-cheeked Hornbill; status: accid; v
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 6; altitude: 1,750
comments: two (pair?) in flight

Bucorvus abyssinicus Abyssinian Ground Hornbill; status: rare; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 11; altitude: 1,750

Pogoniulus pusillus Red-fronted Tinkerbird; status: fairly common; r
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 8; month: 3, 4, 10; altitude: 1,650–1,950

Lybius guifsobalito Black-billed Barbet; status: locally common; r
rec: 6; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 8; month: 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
1,650–1,950

Trachyphonus margaritatus Yellow-breasted Barbet; status: rare; rb
rec: 9; sites: 6; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 7, 8, 11; month: 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
150–2,400

Campethera nubica Nubian Woodpecker; status: common; r
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 3, 11; altitude: 1,600–1,920

Dendropicos abyssinicus Abyssinian Woodpecker; status: rare; rb, e
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 10; month: 4, 11; altitude: 1,750–2,000

Alaemon alaudipes Hoopoe Lark; status: rare; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 6; altitude: 10

Calandrella cinerea (incl. *blanfordi*) Red-capped Lark; status: abundant; rb
rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 4, 10; altitude: 2,500
comments: treated as two species in Smith¹⁵

Galerida cristata Crested Lark; status: rare; rb
rec: 5; sites: 3; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 2, 4, 6, 10; altitude: 10–150
comments: probably included some *G. theklae*

Galerida malabarica Thekla Lark; status: common; rb
rec: 6; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 4, 5, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
1,650–2,500
comments: probably included some *G. cristata*

Eremopterix leucotis Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark; status: locally
common; r
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 7, 9; month: 3, 10, 11; altitude: 650–2,400

Eremopterix nigriceps Black-crowned Sparrow Lark; status: abundant; rb
rec: 5; sites: 4; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 9; month: 4, 6, 10; altitude: 10–650

Hirundo abyssinica Lesser Striped Swallow; status: common; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 10; month: 4; altitude: 2,000

Hirundo daurica Red-rumped Swallow; status: locally common; rb/p
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 10; month: 4; altitude: 2,000–2,400

Hirundo fuligula (incl. *obsoleta*) Rock Martin; status: common; rb
rec: 14; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 3, 4, 5, 7; month: 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
1,650–2,400
comments: br, nest in April

Hirundo aethiopica Ethiopian Swallow; status: common; rb
rec: 7; sites: 6; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 4, 5, 7, 10; month: 3, 4, 6; altitude:
180–2,370

Hirundo rustica Barn Swallow; status: locally common; p
rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 4, 10; month: 4, 10; altitude: 50–2,400

Delichon urbica Common House Martin; status: common; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 3; month: 3; altitude: 2,400

Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail; status: abundant; p
rec: 11; sites: 6; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 4, 7, 10; month: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
50–2,500
comments: Feb migration in coastal lowlands



Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Ceratogymna brevis*
by Mark Andrews

Motacilla cinerea Grey Wagtail; status: fairly common; p
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 10; altitude: 1,650–2,200

Motacilla alba White Wagtail; status: common; p
rec: 9; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
180–2,400
comments: Feb migration in highlands

Motacilla aguimp African Pied Wagtail; status: locally common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 10; altitude: 1,650

Anthus novaeseelandiae Richard's Pipit; status: locally common; rb
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 4, 10; altitude: 1,900–2,500

Anthus campestris Tawny Pipit; status: abundant; p+
rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 6, 10; altitude: 2,400–2,500

Anthus similis Long-billed Pipit; status: fairly common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 6; altitude: 2,400

Pycnonotus barbatus Common Bulbul; status: common; rb
rec: 25; sites: 14; # zones: 6; zones: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 50–2,400

Monticola solitarius Blue Rock Thrush; status: common; p+
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 3; month: 2, 10; altitude: 2,000–2,150

Monticola saxatilis Rock Thrush; status: fairly common; p+
rec: 5; sites: 5; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 3, 10; altitude: 2,000–2,400

Monticola rufocinereus Little Rock Thrush; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 6; sites: 4; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,200
comments: br, nest in April

Turdus olivaceus Olive Thrush; status: locally common; rb
rec: 3; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 3, 6; altitude: 2,300

Psophocichla litsitsirupa Groundscraper Thrush; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 11; month: 4, 6; altitude: 2050–2200

Cossypha semirufa Rüppell's Robin Chat; status: abundant; rb
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 3, 4, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,250

Cercotrichas podobe Black Scrub-Robin; status: rare; rb
rec: 6; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 3, 8, 9; month: 2, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
50–1,200

Phoenicurus phoenicurus Common Redstart; status: locally common; p+
rec: 9; sites: 8; # zones: 5; zones: 3, 5, 6, 7, 11; month: 3, 4, 11; altitude:
1,400–2,400
comments: >50 birds passing in two hours

Saxicola torquata Common Stonechat; status: common; p+
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 3, 10; altitude: 2,200–2,400

Oenanthe oenanthe Northern Wheatear; status: locally common; p
rec: 9; sites: 9; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
1,900–2,500

Oenanthe pleschanka Pied Wheatear; status: abundant; p+
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 2, 3; altitude: 1,650–2,400

Oenanthe hispanica Black-eared Wheatear; status: locally common; p+
rec: 4; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 3, 10, 11; altitude: 1,650–2,400

Oenanthe lugens (incl. *lugubris*) Mourning Wheatear; status: abundant; rb
rec: 13; sites: 9; # zones: 5; zones: 3, 4, 5, 7, 8; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 1,200–2,500

Oenanthe bottae (incl. *heuglini*) Red-breasted (Botta's) Wheatear; status:
rare; v
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 4; altitude: 2,500
comments: considered two species in Smith¹⁵

Oenanthe isabellina Isabelline Wheatear; status: abundant; p+
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 11; altitude: 2,500

Cercomela melanura Blackstart; status: rare; rb
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 50–150

Myrmecocichla melaena Rüppell's Black Chat; status: rare; rb, e
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 5; month: 4; altitude: 2,370

Myrmecocichla albifrons White-fronted Black Chat; status: rare; r
rec: 7; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 2, 3, 10; altitude: 1,650
comments: males without white shoulder patch

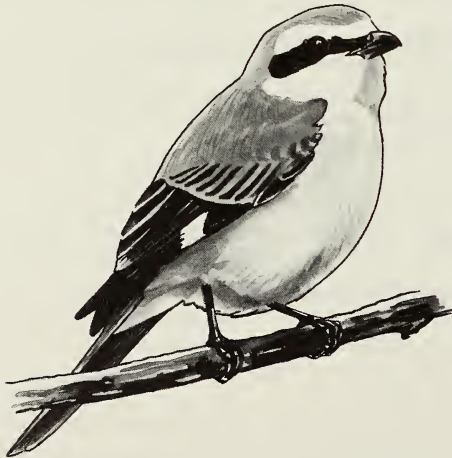
Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris Mocking Cliffchat; status: rare; rb
rec: 6; sites: 6; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
1,650–2,400

Myrmecocichla semirufa White-winged Cliffchat; status: rare; rb, e
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 5; month: 4; altitude: 2,370

Acrocephalus arundinaceus Great Reed-Warbler; status: common; p+
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 50

Eremomela icteropygialis Yellow-bellied Eremomela; status: locally
common; r
rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3, 10; altitude: 1,650

Phylloscopus collybita Common Chiffchaff; status: common; p+
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 2, 10; altitude: 2,150–2,250
comments: probably included other *Phylloscopus* species



Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*
by Mark Andrews

Sylvia atricapilla Blackcap; status: common; p+
rec: 5; sites: 5; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11; month: 3, 4, 10; altitude:
50–2,400
comments: mm + ff

Sylvia communis Common Whitethroat; status: abundant; p+
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 11; altitude: 1,750

Prinia subflava Tawny-flanked Prinia; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 9; month: 10; altitude: 700–2,200

Urorhipis rufifrons Red-fronted Warbler; status: locally common; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 150

Camaroptera brachyura Bleating Warbler; status: locally common; r
rec: 2; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3, 10; altitude: 1,650

Batis orientalis Grey-headed Batis; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 3, 10; altitude: 950–1,650

Terpsiphone viridis African Paradise Flycatcher; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 3, 7; month: 2, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
180–1,650

Turdoides leucopygius White-rumped Babbler; status: common; r
rec: 13; sites: 8; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 180–2,370

Parus leucomelas Northern Black Tit; status: rare; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3; altitude: 1,650

Chalcomitra senegalensis Scarlet-chested Sunbird; status: locally
common; rb
rec: 4; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 10; month: 2, 4, 10; altitude: 950–2,300

Cinnyris venusta Variable Sunbird; status: locally common; rb
rec: 18; sites: 9; # zones: 5; zones: 3, 4, 5, 7, 10; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 1,650–2,400

Cinnyris mariquensis Marico Sunbird; status: rare; r
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 3, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,000

Cinnyris pulchella Beautiful Sunbird; status: rare; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 6; month: 4; altitude: 1,400

Nectarinia tacazze Tacazze Sunbird; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 3, 6, 10; altitude: 2,200–2,300

Zosterops poliogaster Mountain White-eye; status: rare; rb
rec: 4; sites: 4; # zones: 4; zones: 3, 8, 10, 11; month: 4; altitude: 1,950–2,200

Lanius collurio Red-backed Shrike; status: fairly common; p
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 2, 10; altitude: 2,500

Lanius isabellinus Red-tailed Shrike; status: fairly common; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Lanius minor Lesser Grey Shrike; status: locally common; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Lanius meridionalis Southern Grey Shrike; status: common; rb
rec: 6; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 3, 4, 8; month: 6, 10; altitude: 50–2,500
comments: included within *Lanius excubitor* by Smith¹⁵ and Dowsett &
Dowsett-Lemaire⁴

Lanius collaris Fiscal Shrike; status: abundant; rb
rec: 15; sites: 7; # zones: 5; zones: 3, 4, 5, 7, 11; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
2,000–2,400

Lanius senator Woodchat Shrike; status: common; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 3; altitude: 2,200

Lanius nubicus Masked Shrike; status: locally common; p
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 7, 8; month: 4, 11; altitude: 50–1,950

Dryoscopus gambensis Northern Puffback; status: locally common; r
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3; month: 2, 10; altitude: 950

Tchagra senegala Black-crowned Tchagra; status: rare; rb
rec: 5; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 4, 10, 11; altitude:
1,750–2,300



Red-billed Oxpeckers *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
by Mark Andrews

Telophorus cruentus Rosy-patched Bush-Shrike; status: locally common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 10; altitude: 50–150

Laniarius aethiopicus Tropical Boubou; status: locally common; r
rec: 13; sites: 7; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude:
950–2,000

Laniarius erythrogaster Black-headed Bush-Shrike; status: locally
common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 12; month: 6; altitude: 950

Malaconotus blanchoti Grey-headed Bush-Shrike; status: rare; r
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 7; month: 10; altitude: 950–1,650

Dicrurus adsimilis African Drongo; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 9; sites: 6; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 3, 7, 8; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
100–1,920

Corvus splendens Indian House Crow; status: ib
rec: 5; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 2, 4, 6, 10; altitude: 0–50
comments: br in Massawa and Hirhigo; not listed in Smith¹⁵

Corvus albus Pied Crow; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 11; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 4, 6, 9; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
0–2,500

Corvus capensis Cape Rook; status: locally common; rb
rec: 12; sites: 4; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 11; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
2,050–2,500
comments: br, feeding young

Corvus rhipidurus Fan-tailed Raven; status: locally common; rb
rec: 25; sites: 12; # zones: 6; zones: 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 1,200–2,500

Onychognathus blythii Somali Starling; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 9; sites: 4; # zones: 3; zones: 4, 7, 8; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
1,650–2,500
comments: br in Asmera

Onychognathus albirostris White-billed Starling; status: fairly common; rb, e
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 5; month: 4; altitude: 2,370

Lamprotornis chalybaeus Greater Blue-eared Starling; status: locally
common; rb
rec: 14; sites: 10; # zones: 7; zones: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10,
11; altitude: 650–2,370
comments: probably included some *L. chloropterus*

Lamprotornis purpuropterus Rüppell's Glossy Starling; status: common; rb
rec: 5; sites: 5; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 9; month: 2, 6, 10, 11; altitude: 650–1,750

Lamprotornis pulcher Chestnut-bellied Starling; status: common; rb
rec: 13; sites: 7; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 7, 8, 9; month: 2, 3, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
180–1,950

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster Violet-backed Starling; status: fairly common; m
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 8; month: 3, 6; altitude: 1,200–1,650

Creatophora cinerea Wattled Starling; status: rare; mb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4, 6; altitude: 50–180
comments: eight at coast, ten at dam

Buphagus erythrorhynchus Red-billed Oxpecker; status: rare; rb
rec: 8; sites: 6; # zones: 4; zones: 2, 6, 7, 11; month: 4, 10, 11; altitude:
50–2,050

Passer domesticus House Sparrow; status: ?
rec: 5; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 6, 9; month: 2, 4, 6, 10; altitude: 650–1,400
comments: br, Keren, Agordat and Barentu; not listed in Smith¹⁵ or Dowsett &
Dowsett-Lemaire⁴

Passer swainsoni Swainson's Sparrow; status: common; rb
rec: 16; sites: 9; # zones: 7; zones: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11;
altitude: 50–2,500
comments: sometimes included with *P. griseus*.

Carpospiza brachydactyla Pale Rock Sparrow; status: rare; p+
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Bubalornis albirostris White-billed Buffalo Weaver; status: locally common; rb
rec: 8; sites: 5; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 6, 7, 9; month: 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
180–1,750

Sporopipes frontalis Speckle-fronted Weaver; status: rare; rb
rec: 5; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3, 10, 11; altitude: 1,650–1,750

Plocepasser superciliosus Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver; status: rare; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3, 11; altitude: 1,650–1,750

Ploceus baglafecht Baglafecht Weaver; status: rare; rb
rec: 8; sites: 5; # zones: 4; zones: 3, 4, 5, 6; month: 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
1,400–2,370
comments: br, nest building in June in highland

Ploceus luteolus Little Weaver; status: common; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 4; altitude: 2000

Ploceus galbula Rüppell's Weaver; status: abundant; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Ploceus cucullatus Village Weaver; status: locally common; rb
rec: 11; sites: 6; # zones: 5; zones: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7; month: 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
50–2,300
comments: br, nest building in June in highland

Quelea quelea Red-billed Quelea; status: locally common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Lagonosticta senegala Red-billed Firefinch; status: common; rb
rec: 4; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 3, 10; altitude: 1,750–2,500

Estrilda rhodopyga Crimson-rumped Waxbill; status: common; rb
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 3; month: 10; altitude: 1,700

Uraeginthus bengalus Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu; status: rare; rb
rec: 12; sites: 6; # zones: 3; zones: 3, 4, 7; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
1,650–2,300

Lonchura cantans African Silverbill; status: locally common; rb
rec: 9; sites: 6; # zones: 3; zones: 2, 4, 7; month: 3, 4, 6, 10, 11; altitude:
50–2,500
comments: br, nest building in October in Mareb River catchment area

Amadina fasciata Cut-throat; status: fairly common; rb
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 3, 11; altitude: 1,750–2,200

Vidua chalybeata Village Indigobird; status: rare; r
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 3; zones: 4, 7, 9; month: 3, 10, 11; altitude: 700–2,200

Vidua macroura Pin-tailed Whydah; status: fairly common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 11; altitude: 1,750

Vidua orientalis Northern Paradise Whydah; status: locally common; r
rec: 3; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 7, 9; month: 2, 10, 11; altitude: 700–1,750
comment: sometimes included within *V. paradisaea*.

Serinus canicollis Yellow-crowned (Cape) Canary; status: locally common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 6; altitude: 2,400

Serinus citrinelloides African Citril; status: locally common; r
rec: 4; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 3, 6, 10; altitude: 2,200–2,300

Serinus xanthopygius White-throated Serin (Abyssinian Yellow-rumped
Seedeater); status: fairly common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 10; altitude: 2,500

Serinus mozambicus Yellow-fronted Serin; status: locally common; r
rec: 2; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 4, 7; month: 3, 10; altitude: 1,650–2,300

Serinus tristriatus Brown-rumped Seedeater; status: abundant; rb
rec: 7; sites: 4; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 2, 4, 10, 11; altitude: 2150–2400

Serinus striolatus Streaky Seedeater; status: rare; r
rec: 10; sites: 5; # zones: 2; zones: 3, 4; month: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10; altitude:
2,000–2,300

Emberiza cineracea Cinereous Bunting; status: rare; p
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 4; month: 3; altitude: 2,200
comments: Near-threatened

Emberiza hortulana Ortolan Bunting; status: locally common; p
rec: 4; sites: 2; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 4; month: 3, 4; altitude: 50–2,500

Emberiza striolata House Bunting; status: fairly common; r
rec: 1; sites: 1; # zones: 1; zones: 2; month: 4; altitude: 50

Emberiza tahapisi Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting; status: common; r
rec: 6; sites: 3; # zones: 2; zones: 2, 7; month: 3, 4, 10, 11; altitude: 50–1,750

Emberiza flaviventris African Golden-breasted Bunting; status: fairly
common; rb
rec: 3; sites: 2; # zones: 1; zones: 7; month: 3, 11; altitude: 1,650–1,750

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